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Montana Historical Society
The Montana Historical Society
Report to the 55th Legislature and
the State of Montana

The MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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December 1, 1996

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THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

Since its founding in 1865, the Montana Historical Society has remained firmly committed to preserving and interpreting Montana and western American history. This is the foundation upon which all Society program activity is built.

As outlined by statute since the Society became a state agency in 1891, the mission of the Montana Historical Society is to:

> Collect, preserve, and interpret material that reflects and documents the history and prehistory of Montana and the region.
>
> Interpret Montana history through study, exhibits, publications, and educational programs.
>
> Encourage the preservation of Montana's historical, architectural, archaeological, and related cultural resources.
>
> Encourage and support high-quality research, publications, and exhibits that interpret local, state, and regional history, and cooperate with other institutions toward those ends.

Keeping its statutory mission in mind, the Society's major goals for long-term growth and development are:

> To continually improve the level and quality of service the Society provides to all its constituents.
>
> To improve the support services and facilities required to preserve properly the collected materials entrusted to the Society.
>
> To enhance the Society's reputation and develop its presence as not only the oldest but also the finest historical organization in the West.
>
> To consistently exceed visitor expectations.
>
> To be among the very best historical organizations, anywhere, at which to work.

SOCIETY ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAMS

The Montana Historical Society is organized into four operating units, each headed by a program manager who reports to the Society director. These units are Library/Archives, Museum, Publications, and State Historic Preservation Office.

Overall, Society management is the responsibility of an administration program, which includes the director's office, public

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information, business office, personnel, security, facilities management, and state government liaison. The Society's membership is also part of administration.

ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Administration Program at the Montana Historical Society consists of the Director's Office, the Security Office, the Public Relations Office, the Centralized Services Office, and the Historic Research Office. The Administration program provides overall supervision of the agency, building management, fiscal and personnel management, special membership promotion, publicity and historical research.

The program's Events/Promotion Specialist in the Director's Office not only provides administrative support for the Director, but also performs the Special Membership function at the Society. Special Memberships offer several benefits including a subscription to Montana, the Magazine of Western History. In return these memberships provide funding for the Society's educational activities, which includes the following: lectures, programs, slide programs and exhibits that travel to schools around the state. No other source of money is available for these activities. Membership donations also provide funding for new publications, public programs, and new exhibits.

The Security Office provides overall security for the agency and its irreplaceable collections. Security includes maintenance of the intrusion security system, passive observation of visitors, crowd control for public events, checking of parcels, bags, etc. when visitors and staff depart, and providing emergency and accident response. An equally important function of the Security Unit is the public information aspect of the Unit's responsibilities. Security courteously provides information to visitors on the exhibits, Montana history, travel in Montana, sites and services in Helena, and answers to other questions when requested.

The Public Information Office provides public information to inform thousands of Montanans about events, exhibits, and other services designed to educate people about Montana's heritage and to further efforts to collect and preserve the state's history. This objective is accomplished via news releases, public service announcements, special reports and national stories.

The Historic Research Office provides verification, research, writing and editing for projects and publications produced by the Society. This function also serves as Society representative for public events. In addition this office performs on-the-spot radio and television interviews and serves as a historical consultant.

The Centralized Services Office provides building management, fiscal management, and personnel management. These functions consist of budgeting, accounting, fiscal reporting, personnel management, building and property management, and computer management. The staff represent the agency in transactions with appropriate state and federal agencies, clients and the public.

1996/1997 BIENNIUM

In addition to the expected administrative activity of the Director and Events/Promotion Specialist, a significant percentage of time was expended in staffing or cooperating with the Virginia City/Nevada City Preservation Task Force, the Montana Heritage Project, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Advisory Council, the Montana Recreation and Tourism Initiative, and the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society. To summarize the purpose of most of these involvements was to promote heritage tourism and to pursue fundraising for a myriad of Society projects.

The Events/Promotion Specialist secured additional Special Members for a total membership exceeding 1,200 donors during the last biennium.

The Security Unit provided security for the collections and provided information to 83,946 visitors in Fiscal Year 1996. They also performed 2,156 security inspections. During this fiscal year a camera was added for additional security at the front entrance. Other security cameras were upgraded in order to implement the upgrading of the security system to a level that would provide more video coverage. The sensor system also added during the last Biennium is being utilized in the Russell Gallery.

The Public Information Office, in close cooperation with staff throughout the Society, focused on spreading information about the Society and its benefits and use to people across the state. Attendance at the annual Montana History Conference continues to increase as does attendance at other Society events. Using print and electronic media across the state, the office generated more than 50 major stories and television shows. For the first time, the Information Office worked with the Society's education program and the publications program on a new series titled "Live from the Society". Using the Society's new book, Traveler's Guide to the Great Sioux War, a series of live public programs with attendant publicity were presented in Sidney, Glendive, Miles City, Billings and Hardin over a four-day period. Audience response was very positive and more than 100 copies of the book were sold. The information office will continue to work on this series to take all aspects of the Society to people across the state. The Society also was featured in numerous articles and electronic shows nationwide in such publications as the Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Seattle Post as well as CNN, the Shopping Network and news shows. The office also is working with Travel Montana and the Alberta tourism agency on a heritage tourism promotion across the

Montana-Alberta border that will lead to a joint exhibit in 1998 or 1999 that will travel in both countries as well as Germany and Japan. The office also hosted numerous groups and dignitaries from across the nation and the world. Information and Public awareness of the historic properties in Virginia and Nevada Cities also had a high priority during this period. Increasing Society membership remains a high priority for this office.

During the 1996-1997 biennium, the Historical Research Office verified, researched, wrote, and edited materials for several specific projects: The Guide to the Montana Historical Society Oral-history Collection; the Ortenberg/Claiborne Montana Heritage Project; the Governor's Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Advisory Council; various Society awards designations; the Governor's Virginia City/Nevada City Task Force; the Charles M. Russell research-center grant proposal; handout texts for individual sections within the permanent "Homeland" exhibit; the Montana Study materials-acquisition project; biographical sketches for Capitol displays, including niches within the "Gallery of Outstanding Montanans." , and the Governor's residence book project. In addition, the Research Historian served as the Society's representative for the annual Montana History Day judging, the annual Montana Geography Bee, the annual Centennial Bell/Outstanding Montana History Teacher Award competition, the annual (Helena) Vigilante Day Parade judging, and various dedications and openings. The position further facilitates public donations to the Society's Library/Archives and Museum, serves as a Montana-history authority for media representatives, consults with various Society departments regarding exhibits and publications, and contributes expertise to outside conferences, projects, and promotions.

During fiscal year 1996 the Centralized Services Office ensured that the Agency's Accounting System was in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting principles. The Agency maintained an Accounts Receivable system for a total of $46,530.00 at the end of FY96. This office ensured the safeguarding and accountability for $41,984,822.00 of assets including the Russell collection, the Monographs collection, the Museum Collection, the Daly and Moss Mansion, and the Library collection. This office also maintained an Inventory System which consists of $375,707.00 of merchandise and books sold to the public. More specifically this office: prepared the Biennial Budget with budget modifications during the year consisting of federal and private grants; maintained the Statewide Budget and Accounting System; maintained 5 major grants with additional subgrants; maintained the accounts receivable system for 100 active clients and processed 1,200 applicable statements; maintained and reviewed 40 SBAS centers monthly for accuracy and budgetary control; tracked 5 programs monthly; processed approximately 2,000 payroll forms and records; performed quarterly audits of the Daly and Moss mansions; oversaw implementation of audit recommendations; and outlined plans regarding more efficient internal control for the enterprise and grant programs. In addition, this office also prepared quarterly financial reports for the Society's governing Board of Directors. During this period the

initial step in networking all Society computers began by networking Administration's and Photo Archive's computers.

1998/1999 BIENNIUM

The Director and Events/Promotion Specialist will continue staffing or cooperating with the Montana Heritage Project, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Advisory Council, the Montana Recreation and Tourism Initiative, and the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society to promote heritage tourism and to pursue fundraising for a myriad of Society projects.

The Events/Promotion Specialist will also continue to not only maintain the current Special Members but will search for new members in order to expand the funding source to support the educational activities at the Society.

Additional funding was requested for the Agency computer network system. This system will allow the Society to implement a computer system that would allow us to develop electronic databases that provide adequate information about our collections, projects, events, and also enable the agency to work more efficiently and cost effective. This will be an agency wide network and benefit all programs at the Society.

The Security Function plans to install additional cameras and monitors as authority is available. The security function will continue to provide security for the collections, information to visitors, and perform inspections as needed.

The Public Information Office will continue to generate increased awareness of the Society and the services offered. This office will also continue working on the option to purchase Virginia City and Nevada city; the Passport program, which is a promotion concept between Canada and Montana; and the expansion of our public programs. This office will also continue to provide coverage to include not only the entire state, but also the nation to increase awareness and interest in the state's rich history and heritage. If the Society is to truly be a statewide protector of Montana history and heritage, we must work with the media to have a voice throughout the state.

During the 1998/1999 biennium, the Historical Research Office will continue to provide research, verification, writing, and speaking as needed by the various programs in the Society and for the general public. The office also will serve as the Society's consultant on outside projects and boards, represent the Society at public functions, deliver presentations in public settings, staff special-project task forces, and facilitate the interaction of the public with the Society's collections.

The Centralized Services Office will continue to provide fiscal, personnel, and building management and support for the Agency. If

funded, the office will implement and manage the computer network system. The office will continue to ensure the Accounting is in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. This program will continue to focus on providing security for the collections of the state, providing information to visitors, increasing awareness of the Society and its services, serving as a source of funding for education activities both in schools around the state and at the Society, providing historic research as needed. The focus will also continue to include: maintenance of the accounting system in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; expanding the services of the Society into every corner of this s
0tate; and attempting to involve as many citizens as possible in preserving Montana's heritage.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Library and Archives Program incorporates three functional sections: the Library, the Archives, and the Photograph Archives. Dating its collecting from 1865 and its public reference service from 1887, the Library is the oldest department of the Society. Although pioneer diaries and letters were collected from the Society's start, and some older state records were taken in for safekeeping before 1969, it was in that year that the State Archives was created by law. In 1974, the Photograph Archives became a separately-maintained collection. The different sections each collect distinctive materials and employ distinctive methodologies to organize and service their collections. The Library holds printed or "published" material in all formats; the Archives collects unpublished, "original" material, including oral history audiotapes from interviews conducted by staff; and the Photograph Archives gathers in photographs, and archival, or one-of-a-kind, non-commercial films and videotapes.

The Program houses and services the nation's most comprehensive collection of historical research material pertaining to Montana. Its collections contain over 100,000 volumes, 200,000 historical images, 14,000 reels of microfilm, mostly of the 1,200 runs of Montana newspapers in the Library, 16,000 maps, 1,700 taped interviews, 11,600 cubic feet of manuscripts and territorial and older state government records, and 11,800 quick reference subject files.

The staff is responsible for collecting, organizing, preserving, and assisting the public and the staff of other Society programs in the use of this wealth of research material. For security and preservation, storage stacks are closed to the public and materials do not circulate, but are made available to visitors through two

public reference rooms. The Program also operates a darkroom to provide photographic prints to the public, and shares with the Museum the use of a small conservation laboratory.

The Archives provides a special service to other state offices, helping them identify records which have historical value, and arranging for their transfer for permanent keeping and research use. The Program encourages significant new written contributions to Montana history through annual James H. Bradley Summer Fellowships. Funded by an endowment from a private citizen, the Bradleys support two scholars for a four weeks research residency. The scholars submit articles drawn from their research for possible publication in the Society's magazine.

The State Archivist serves as the chair and state coordinator of the gubernatorially-appointed State Historic Records Advisory Council, which reviews and makes recommendations to the National Archives on proposals from Montana institutions seeking federal grant funds for archival projects. The Archivist also serves on the State Records Committee, which reviews requests from state agencies to destroy or otherwise dispose of their inactive records, and the recently-created Local Government Records Advisory Committee, which brings together state, county and city records managers to work cooperatively on records management problems on all government levels.

The Society Librarian and Program Administrator serves as the alternate on all these committees, and also as an adviser to Publications and Graphics for state publishing.

FISCAL YEAR 1996 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reference and Research Assistance

The Library and Archives' most visible public service is assisting visitors in its two public research rooms. The main reference room where all library and archival materials must be used is on the second floor of the Pioneer and Veterans Memorial Building, and is open 8 to 5 weekdays, and the first Saturday of each month from 9 to 4:30. The Photograph Archives maintains a smaller reference room on the third floor, which, because of the small number of staff, is officially open to the public only from 1 to 5 p.m., with morning appointments made for special circumstances. Researchers include students of all levels, genealogists, academic scholars, other state employees, contract historians, and a broad spectrum of the general public from both Montana and out-of-state. Staff not only help researchers find pertinent material but, as subject experts in Montana history, often advise on interpreting these materials. Staff also respond to requests by mail and telephone both for information on Montana and Western history, and, from libraries, historical societies, museums, and local governments around the state and sometimes from their colleagues in other states, for professional advice on the proper handling and the preservation of

special materials such as rare books, business records, or historical photographs.

The Program experienced an all-time annual record in Fiscal Year 1996 with 3,682 researcher visits. It also responded to 2,841 requests by mail, and to over 7,000 telephone inquiries. It supplied material that will be included in 45 books, 36 articles, 4 documentary films or videos, 2 commercial movies, and 3 television series shows, testifying to the national reputation of its collections. The national usefulness of the collections is also indicated by the fact that, in the summer, 35 to 40% of the visiting researchers are from out-of-state, as are 70% of the mail inquiries year-round. And use has increased sharply, with a 54% increase in mail reference from 10 years ago, a 71% increase in researchers visiting, and a stunning 300% increase in telephone reference.

A special service provided by the Library in cooperation with the Office of Public Instruction, which publishes it, is a 27-page booklet entitled Montana, A Classroom Guide to the Study of the State, compiled and updated by the Society's research historian. This is the centerpiece of the "school packet" which the Library mails in response to the pleas of school children around the nation for free materials about Montana and its history to fulfill an assigned school project. Several state offices, including the Legislative Council and the Governor's Office, refer such requests to the Society. In Fiscal Year 1996, 287 such packets were mailed.

A primary service of the Photograph Archives is the production of prints for the public from photographs in the collection. Fiscal Year 1996 saw a new annual record set with 1,805 prints. This included such diverse orders as 31 prints for the Canyon Ferry Limnological Institute for earthquake research, 85 prints for various parties in various Superfund lawsuits, and 124 prints for different high schools involved in the Montana Heritage project. The section also produced 515 prints for other programs, especially the Society's quarterly magazine and for the Museum's exhibit on the state and national parks. Revenues from the sale of such prints fund the Society's dark room operation.

In their role as the state's official government archivists, Archives staff responded to 151 requests from 58 state offices for advice and assistance on records, including visits to Galen State Hospital and the Mountain View Home for girls to assist with the proper disposal of their records upon the closing of those institutions. They also provided professional advice and assistant to 37 local government entities around the state.

Although most of the Program's materials cannot be borrowed because of their uniqueness or rarity, the Library does loan duplicate copies of its non-rare books and microfilm copies of its most sought-after resource, Montana territorial and state newspapers, through interlibrary loan. In Fiscal Year 1996, the Library mailed out nearly 4,300 reels of microfilm in response to 573 loan requests. Perhaps reflecting increasing regional and national

awareness of the Society's collections, interlibrary loan requests have nearly doubled in the last two years.

Acquisitions and Collection Development

Building and improving its diverse collections is another primary function of the Library and Archives Program. These collections are the Program's principal legacy to the future. It is often necessary to acquire such locally-printed materials as county or town histories soon after they are published if the Library is to have a copy at all, and significant manuscript materials and historical photographs, like gold, are where you find them and, if not found, may soon perish from the accidents and indifference of time. As reference demands have increased, so have the acquisition tasks and rates, as more Montana-related publications, more government records, more films and videotapes and photographs, are generated than ever before. In Fiscal Year 1996, the Library accessioned 4,508 books, pamphlets, maps, and magazine issues as well as thousands of daily and weekly issues of the 98 Montana newspapers it receives. The Archives acquired 67 new manuscript collections totalling 271 linear feet, and took in, because of the closure of Galen hospital and the Mountain View Home, nearly three times its average of older state records; 1,422 new linear feet represented records from 47 state offices. Although only a small amount of Archives staff time can be given to Oral History collecting, the staff Oral Historian did conduct 31 interviews, drawn mostly from attendees at reunions of the residents of the Twin Bridges state orphanage, and of veterans of the 163rd Infantry Regiment in World War II. The Photograph Archives acquired 4,008 additional images, and 165 linear feet of motion picture film.

For most of these acquisitions, the Program relied on the generosity of private donors or the friendliness of other institutions. While the Library has some monies for acquiring materials in its general fund budget, this must be spent primarily on the microfilming of current newspapers and the purchase of currently-published books and magazines before they go out of print and become, ultimately, more expensive and much more time-consuming to obtain. Even in the Library, purchases comprised less than 20% of the Library's additions, and, with only a few exceptions, all the additions to the Archives and Photograph Archives came by gift, or, in a few cases, through the trade of duplicate photographs or paper ephemera items with private collectors. All told, over 450 private citizens and other institutions donated materials, including the 98 publishers of newspapers.

Perhaps the single most important donation to the Library's collection was the twelve atlases of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps donated by the Insurance Services Office of Great Falls. The Society's strong core collection of these extremely detailed maps of towns had come from the Library of Congress decades ago, when the Society was chosen as the repository in Montana to receive the second copy of the copies filed for copyright purposes, 498 map sets, several thousand sheets, representing 204 Montana towns and

cities. In the 20th century, the Sanborn Company went to a system of revising the maps by means of pasted over corrections, and, while the Society's collection had garnered a few revised atlases for most of Montana's cities, it had none of the revisions for the small towns. This donation supplied over 700 such revised sheets for 168 different towns, and thus greatly enriched what is the state's only comprehensive collections of these unique and invaluable maps, which show the "situation" of a town at a moment of time better than any other source. Amongst the noteworthy acquisitions for the Photograph Archives, 165 more linear feet of film was received from the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department and 35 postcards featuring C.M. Russell artwork were purchased from a private collector with donated acquisition funds, making the Society's collection of Russell postcards nearly complete. What is potentially the section's most significant acquisition, the 4,518 glass negatives of turn-of-the-century Miles City photographer R.C. Morrison, had not been completed by November of 1996. The plates had all been brought to the Society, but not all of the multiple family donors had yet signed the donation. In the Archives, it was a biennium especially for gathering in the historically important records of state government, spurred by the closure of Galen State Hospital and the Mountain Home School for Girls. Sizable and valuable collections of older records were also brought in from the Warm Springs Hospital, and from the Veterans' Home in Columbia Falls. The first-ever taping of every legislative committee meeting in the 1995 Legislature, with the tapes to be retained for at least two sessions, led to the addition of 3,000 audiotapes.

Cataloging and Processing

Until cards for books and maps are put in the public card catalog, and sorting, selecting, arranging and inventories are done on the incoming collections of manuscripts, records and photographs, the materials are not truly accessible to the public. This work goes on unseen and unheralded by the public, but is crucial if the collections are to be used and useful. "Backlogs" are a given of library and archival work. No section will ever be completely "caught up," and it is always a matter of identifying the most important problem or project to work on with the staff time available.

The Library gives priority to cataloging and processing current acquisitions and gifts, and then technical services staff proceed to older, "backlog" problems if time permits. In Fiscal Year 1996 the Cataloger did keep up with the current acquisitions and was able to clear some older items and problems.

The Library entered 1,002 new records into the Western Library Network (WLN), the regional data base used by hundreds of libraries in Montana and the Pacific Northwest. At the end of August, 1996, the Library had over 10,000 titles entered into WLN, the regional computerized library data base that will provide the Society with a machine-searchable catalog of its Library holdings if and when the Library can find the time and means to enter all its older

cataloging records as well as the new, ongoing cataloging. The Library still has only some 20% of its holdings of books, magazines and newspapers entered. Archives staff accessioned 114 collections, 1,692 linear feet of paper records, along with 63 cassette tapes beyond the 3,000 legislative tapes, and 118 microfiche sheets. Although increasing use of the collections and increasing reference inquiries with consequent staff time spent on supervising and assisting researchers, and evaluating and transferring state records. All told 80 collections were processed, totalling 242 feet when finished, but preliminary inventories ensuring accessibility for public use were completed on an additional 1,500 feet of material, while the Photograph Archives controlled through its computerized accessioning system the 65 additional subcollections added, totalling 4,008 images, and continued to produce inventories for selected, older subcollections of photographs.

Preservation

In the Library and Archives Program, the present and the future are always in conflict. With its reference and research services, its finding aids and catalogs and its entries in dozens of national directories that describe its collections, and through entering its current acquisitions into a regional automated network, and its newspaper holdings into a national database tappable by thousands of libraries, the Program strives to raise awareness of what is in its collections and thus encourage their use. At the same time, it has statutory responsibility to preserve these same materials as best it can for the use and enjoyment of later generations. Much of its preservation work consists of transferring incoming materials into proper storage containers such as acid-free folders for manuscripts and inert plastic sleeves for photographs. Materials are also examined for mold or insects, cleaned, paper clips and staples removed, and flattened or humidified as needed. All footage processed by the Archives receives such attention, and even incoming collections that will not soon be fully processed are checked to guard against importing insects, mold or other harmful matter, and often are given preliminary cleaning. In addition, the Archives replaced documents too fragile for repeated handling or which were on short-lived paper, such as thermofax, with 1,030 permanent paper photocopies, cleaned 1,500 pages of documents, and humidified 85 brittle, usually oversize, sheets. Receiving from the last legislature additional monies for microfilming archival materials both for preservation purposes and to recapture space, the Archives also converted to microfilm some 44,000 pages of Anaconda Copper Mining Company and Montana Power Company records. The Photograph Archives cleaned, sleeved, and provided proper storage containers for 2,839 additional negatives, lantern slides, and photographs. The Library's conservation effort was enhanced by the participation of the conservation technician in a selective, grant-funded three weeks of intensive training under the supervision of the University of Utah Library Conservator, learning especially the restoration repair of books. Several important pieces of equipment, including a board shears for cutting book boards and a sewing frame to assist in resewing book bindings, were added to the Society's conservation

lab. Although still only one week per month of time can be given to preservation work because of multiple other duties to perform, the conservator provided treatment for 1,032 items. The major project, taking up the bulk of her available time along with that of a volunteer, was the cleaning and sometimes repairing necessary to ready for use the hundreds of newly-donated, hard-used, pasted-over Sanborn maps.

Special Projects and Activities

Volunteers contributed 580 hours, roughly the equivalent of 40 work weeks, to a variety of projects that could not otherwise have been done. These included as complex a task as producing an initial, single-entry card file as a preliminary finding aid to the several hundred posters in the Library's collection.

Starting in November, 1995, the Public Reading Room, with access to the Library and the Archives collections, was open on the first Saturday of each month. Although increased public hours means the staff must spend more time on public reference to the detriment of some of the technical aspects, the Society wished to provide special support for the Montana Heritage research program going on in several Montana high schools, as well as improve as best it could the access for the general public.

The Society is already the repository most mentioned in national genealogical research guides as the spot in Montana to go for information on Montana ancestors, and this prominence was further enhanced when The Bureau of Vital Statistics transferred to the Society a microfilm index to its centralized death and divorce records, covering from roughly 1907 up into the 1960's.

Continuing a tradition of mutual cooperation with the University libraries, the Program provided its list of over 400 duplicate maps to the libraries at the University of Montana and Montana State University, each of which found many items they did not currently have in their collection. Coming the other way, the Society Library was the beneficiary of weeding and collection refining projects at the Carroll College Library and the Montana State Library, receiving first choice of a wide variety of Montana-related publications, especially those of Catholic churches and parochial schools from Carroll.

The Program received a Cultural Trust Grant from the 1995 Legislature, that is permitting the transfer of 10,000 feet of unique film footage documenting the historically-significant Campbell Farm mechanized, dry-land wheat farm operation in Big Horn County in the 1920s and 1930s. The original footage was on dangerously unstable and combustible nitrate film. Videotapes of the salvageable footage will also be produced for reference use.

The Historic Records Advisory Council, a gubernatorially-appointed group attached to and administered by the Archives, and necessary if the state is to participate in the grants program of the National

Archives, itself had one such grant to assist in bringing its members together for training, and to review and revise Montana's state plans for historical records management and preservation. The plan and its priorities had not been revised since 1982.

THE BIENNIUM AHEAD

While the Program expects to spend a majority of its time performing its traditional public and technical services amidst continuing increasing public use of its services and its own increased activity in acquisitions and outreach with its static staffing, it also hopes to resolve some special problems. Foremost among these is space, as each section of the Program, but especially the Archives with its recent massive intake of older state records, finds itself increasingly pinched. This gives a priority for what project time staff can give to identifying and disposing of duplicate or irrelevant material, and to microfilming more archival material where it is not important to keep the original. Nevertheless, enough space cannot be recaptured to ensure sufficient space to take in new collections, and some sort of space relief, either through the purchase of compact shelving, or funds for the rental of satisfactory off-site storage, is being sought in the upcoming budget. Updating and improving its automated operations will also increasingly become a necessity, especially as Montana schools begin to make extensive use of the Internet and have expectations of being able to find help for Montana history research there. At present, the Library's equipment is too old and of insufficient capacity to be able to join the fledgling agency Network that at the moment includes only the Business Office and the Photograph Archives who, thanks to several unexpected contracts involving sizable use payments for photographs, was able to purchase, with these additional revenues that could be budget amended for the purpose, more modern and sophisticated equipment and had become the Program's first link with the Internet. All sections will increasingly have to do other effects of newly-developing technology, such as the increasing number of requests from both individuals and commercial firms to scan or digitize parts of its collection or to allow them to be reproduced in CD-ROM or other electronically-readable form, presenting some difficult questions of fees, royalties, and publishing rights, and best or proper use of staff time. Revenues appropriately derived from charges for copying services should allow the Library to at least alleviate the crowding that occurs on its present microform reader-printers, as it has increasing amount of material, especially newspaper and genealogically-important vital records material, on microfilm, with the purchase of two additional readers.

MUSEUM PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Museum Program collects fine art, and historical, archeological, and ethnological artifacts that pertain to Montana and its adjoining geographic region. Besides caring for the Society's museum collections, program staff conduct research, produce exhibits, sponsor public programs, answer reference requests from the public, and provide technical assistance to other museums and historical societies. The Museum also operates the Original Governor's Mansion as an historic site open to the public. Through the Museum's Education Office guided tours, school services, conferences, workshops, classes, publications, hands-on activities, and other public events are provided. The Museum also administers volunteer services within the Society and coordinates two major annual events--the Montana History Conference and Montana History Day.

The many public activities of the Museum Program reach a large and diverse audience throughout the state and region. In Fiscal Year 1996:

Over 83,946 people visited the Society's Museum
The Original Governor's Mansion was toured by 6,208 people
Guided tours of the Capitol were given to approximately 14,085 people
Group tours at the Society served over 4,063 individuals
Educational outreach programs reached over 16,834 individuals

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Permanent exhibits include:

Montana Homeland - covers the story of Montana's human history, 14,000 years ago to World War II
Mackay Gallery of Charles M. Russell Art - approximately 180 artworks by Montana's most famous western artist
F. J. Haynes: Photographer - portrays the life and work of the official photographer for both the Northern Pacific Railroad (1884-1904) and Yellowstone National Park (1887-1916)

Temporary exhibits are featured in the Northeast Gallery, and the "Reflections" area of the ***Montana Homeland*** exhibit. During the last two fiscal years they included:

The Horse in Art
The Lure of the Parks
Riders Under the Big Sky
Textiles from Montana's Past

Exhibits elsewhere in the Society building included:

Indian Bonnets from the Lee Metcalf Collection
Photographing Montana: The World of Evelyn Cameron, 1894-1928
Promotional Travel Posters from the Haynes Collection
Western Bronzes

The following seven traveling exhibits, developed by the Museum Program, toured to eight venues throughout the state and region during the last fiscal year:

Buildings in the Balance: Saving Montana's Historic Places
Butte in the Era of the Copper Kings
Children in Montana
Haynes Fifty Views
Montana Collage
Photographing Montana: The World of Evelyn Cameron 1894-1928
The Stack Dominated Our Lives

Off-site exhibits include:

The Capitol's Gallery of Outstanding Montanans
Governor's Office - Art was installed in the office of the Governor

The Museum loans art and artifacts from its collections to other museums throughout the state and nation for exhibits they produce. Loans were made to the following institutions in Fiscal Year 1996:

Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta
Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
Holter Museum of Art, Helena
National Mining Museum Hall of Fame, Leadville, Colorado
Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, Colorado
C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls
Sacred Encounters: Father DeSmet and the Indians of the Rocky Mountain West - An exhibit which traveled to five venues throughout America
Sqelix'w/ Aqtsmaknik Cultural Center, Pablo
Western Heritage Center, Billings

ACQUISITIONS

The Museum Program received 852 items from 105 individual donors in the last full fiscal year, and more than 1,600 objects from the Museum collection were individually catalogued. Highlights of the donations to the Museum included: three framed Indian bonnets which belonged to Senator Lee Metcalf; a two-piece wool felt dress made in 1915 for a college co-ed; a quilt made partially in Liberia and completed in Montana; a crazy quilt made by the Montana Republican Women's Club in 1894; two small stone beads from the site of Fort MacKenzie; 240 furniture and decorative items initially used at the

Original Governor's Mansion and later at the Executive Residence; a collection of Native American items from the collection of pioneer Alva Beach; various items, including artwork, from the estate of Helena Native American advocate Eddie Barbeau; and a bequest of a 1893 C. M. Russell oil *OH Cowboys Roping a Steer*.

COLLECTIONS ACTIVITIES

More improvements were made in our storage areas. Our 2,000-piece art collection was completely rehoused in new custom-built storage units because of a Federal grant from the Institute for Museum Services; a part-time Museum technician was hired for one year and an art conservator made three on-site visits to the Museum as part of this project. Old painting storage units were dismantled and new units were built, installed and the art collection was organized into the units. In addition all of our paintings were surface cleaned, had condition assessments completed, were catalogued and photographed.

Our museum volunteers again enabled us to complete projects and improve collections care beyond what was possible with current staff. Seven volunteers assisted staff in the 1996 fiscal year with over 1,146 hours of work completed; the equivalent of .6 full-time staff. Volunteers provided many tasks to the Museum including: cataloguing, filing, typing, artifact research, art appraisal, object preservation, etc.

Conservation activity continued in-house with our trained volunteers cleaning items which were slated for exhibits and items identified as high priority by the Museum staff. Art and objects needing major cleaning or repair were treated by professional conservators on a contract. During the 1995-1996 year four C.M. Russell pen and inks and five oil paintings from the Museum collection were conserved by the Rocky Mountain Conservation Center in Denver. Nineteen textile items were surveyed and cleaned and/or repaired by a textile conservator. A Cultural and Aesthetic grant allowed us to contract with a paintings conservator to conduct a condition assessment of the murals and sculpture in the Capitol. This is an ongoing project to preserve and conserve the artwork both in the Capitol building and in the Capitol complex.

ORIGINAL GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Since 1981, the Museum Program has administered the Original Governor's Mansion (OGM) as an historic house museum offering guided tours to visitors from April through December. Visitations to the Mansion from July 1, 1995 through June 30, 1997 numbered 6,208; 4,047 on regularly scheduled tours, 1,371 by specially arranged tours, and 790 at the annual Christmas Home Tour.

The OGM Board, a group of twelve leaders from the Helena community, supports the Museum in restoration and renovation of the Mansion.

They hold three major fund-raising events each year--an Ice Cream Booth at Memorial Park during July's Helena City Band Concerts, the Secret Garden Tour in July and the Christmas Home Tour in early December. During the 1996 fiscal year the basement bathroom was renovated and updated; second floor Master Bathroom restoration was completed; an exterior maintenance plan was formulated; and a restoration plan for the second floor Southeast bedroom was initiated. A new promotional brochure was designed, printed, distributed with financial assistance provided by the OGM Board and Gold West Country Tourism Region.

EDUCATION

School programs are an important part of the educational outreach of the Museum Program. Approximately 4,063 students received guided tours of the museum in the 1996 fiscal year. In addition, our footlocker exhibits traveled to over 556 classrooms throughout the state and served 12,271 students. As always, footlockers were fully booked during schools sessions. A new footlocker on Montana's immigrants was produced and was available for distribution in October 1996. All existing footlockers were refurbished and updated. Slide programs on Montana history topics were also distributed to schools: 2,776 students in 108 classrooms across the state viewed these programs.

Our volunteer corps, The Friends of the Society, has continued to give us invaluable assistance. Besides the Muses (who plan and host receptions), the Docents (who serve as volunteer tour guides for school groups), and the Department Assistance Volunteers (who assist staff with daily tasks throughout the Society), a new crop of volunteers--the Hot Shots!--was formed. The Hot Shots! serve as our rapid respond team, assisting with a variety of tasks needed to be accomplished ASAP. The Friends of the Society provided us with the equivalent of 1.5 FTE in 1995, helping to alleviate some problems caused by severe staff shortages. Our success in managing volunteers is suffering, however, because of the lack of a dedicated position to coordinate volunteer activities.

A variety of public programs were offered throughout this period. The annual March Lecture Series covered the themes consistent with our *Lure of the Parks* exhibit. Monthly programs of the Friends of the Society were open to the public. Some of the topics explored included: Bella Vista, WWII Internment Camp at Fort Missoula was discussed by Kathy Witkowski; Stephen Ambrose discussed *Undaunted Courage*, his new book on the Lewis and Clark Expedition; Annick Smith talked about her new book *Homestead*; Society archaeologists Mark Baumler and Stan Wilmoth provided a summary of their work on the Flying D Ranch project; Viv Paladin and Jean Baucus spoke on *Helena: An Illustrated History*; and Mike Malone spoke on James J. Hill and the Great Northern Railroad. Over 3,274 people participated in educational programs we offered in fiscal year 1996. Over the past two years our summer programs have been very successful; this summer's *Cooking and Camping in Montana's Parks* and

1995's *Riders Under the Big Sky* Series both drew large crowds and continued interest in our programs. The Education staff created a popular new series last biennium--*LIVE! from the Society*--which brings programs on a variety of historical topics to communities throughout Montana.

In 1995 the 21th annual Montana History Conference was held in Helena (160 attendees) with a theme of *Montana History Rewound.* The 1996 conference in Butte was the largest ever (over 260 attendees) and garnered much attention to the Society's statewide activities and programs. The Montana History Day Competition is organized each year by the Education Office. In 1996, six Montana schools sent students to Helena for the statewide competition. Nine students entered the National History Day competition and traveled to Maryland for the national competition.

The Capitol Tour program was expanded through a commitment from the legislature and funds transferred from the Bed Tax. The Capitol Tour Program--run by an Education Assistant and six part-time Tour Guides, provides regularly scheduled tours of the Capitol building from January through September 15 and at other times by appointment. A total of 1,101 groups consisting of 14,085 people enjoyed guided tours of the Capitol in fiscal year 1996. The tour script has been totally revamped and a new self-guided Capitol Tour booklet was produced during the last two years.

MAJOR GRANTS RECEIVED

We have received three Federal grants from the Institute of Museum Services this biennium. A 1995 IMS General Operating Support grant of $49,504 was awarded to the Museum. This grant allowed us to hire part-time support staff and provide an assessment of the services provided by the Society through visitor/audience surveys, including a statewide "Public Awareness" telephone questionnaire. A $25,000 IMS Conservation Project grant to hire a Conservator to individually assess the condition of our 2,000-piece art collection and reorganize them in more appropriate storage units was received in 1995. The third grant is allowing us to determine the effectiveness of the Society's public programming and outreach activities. Museums Assessment III will help us critically assess the educational services we provide and determine their effectiveness. The two components of this project involve self-assessment activities and an on-site visit by two museum education consultants.

Two grants from the 1995 Montana Legislature, funded by the Montana Cultural Trust, were also received. A $12,000 grant enabled us to continue a project to evaluate the condition of murals and artwork in the State Capitol and the Capitol complex. The Decamp murals in the Old Law Library were inspected plus all of the statuary in the Capitol. A special project to plan and hold statewide training sessions for museum workers was also funded by the Cultural Trust. Seven Common Sense Care: Preventive Conservation for Museum Collections workshops have been planned across the state from

Hamilton to Sidney. Besides providing a day-long workshop presented by a professional conservator addressing everyday problems encountered by small museums, this project includes on-site visits to museums for individual consultations. Ten museums can share their unique problems with the conservator for advice on improving exhibition techniques, storage conditions and general museum security.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Museum Program will be facing many challenges during the next biennium. We are seeing increased demand for services each year. Requests for technical assistance, traveling exhibits, educational programs, school curriculum material, loans for outside exhibits and reference queries are out pacing our current staff's ability to keep up with them. The loss of a significant part of our supplies and materials budget two sessions ago has led the Museum to curtail some services and rely on increasingly competitive Federal grants to make up the difference. The Federal funds are no longer a viable alternative to State general fund monies. Normal programming activities will have to be reassessed in the next biennium to match our services with our budget.

We will continue to place care of Museum collections as a program priority. Federal funds will again be sought to accomplish specific projects to improve storage conditions, especially for our collections housed off-site. The cramped conditions in our present storage areas and the woefully inadequate conditions at our off-site storage location must be solved. Improvements must be made within a short time span to preserve the integrity of the Museum collections. We will also seek funds to continue our efforts to provide conservation services to museums and individuals throughout Montana.

There are many repairs at the Original Governor's Mansion which have been needed for some time, but are now critical to have accomplished including: capping of the chimneys, repair and painting of window frames, bird nesting eradication, repair wood rot to structural parts of the front porch, and replace a deteriorating brick wall in the Carriage House. Plans for the exterior maintenance of the Mansion are now in place and will begin in the spring of 1997. The repairs needed because of delayed maintenance will take place over a five-six year period. We have also developed plans for restoration of the southeast bedroom-used as a guest bedroom during Governor Sam V. Stewart's tenure. The project will involve: architectural research, reproducing the original wall fabric, obtaining an appropriate light fixture, installing historically accurate window coverings, and painting. The total $16,000 needed will be raised by the Original Governor's Mansion Restoration Society and other private funding sources with the assistance of Museum staff.

Documentation of collections is another area where improvement is needed. Cataloguing activity must continue at a brisk pace to keep up with our need for records management, a full inventory of collections is past due, and computerization of information concerning Museum collections is critical. A database and additional computer equipment are needed before we undertake the inventory project--and temporary staff will be required. Increased use of our collections as a reference source also necessitates improved access to collections data. It is important that these issues of information management be addressed. Insurance, audit and professional museum concerns are reasons to address these issues. However, our current limited personnel and financial resources will make it difficult to make much improvement in this arena without additional general fund monies.

Educational activities have been successful but our efforts in this area cannot currently meet the needs of our audience. We must also try to reach audience segments who have not traditionally been served adequately; groups such as foreign language speakers, disabled groups and ethnic minorities. Efforts to reach the statewide audience outside Helena with programs and historical resources continue and will be stepped up when possible. Recently programs such as the Montana History Conference and our traveling exhibits have met with great success throughout Montana. The Museum will try to acquire funds for educational activities, including: a new series of Montana history footlockers for schools, video presentations and additional publications to coincide with our exhibits--such as catalogs and school curriculum materials. We will be investigating ways to fund a half-time Volunteer Coordinator who could dedicate time to promote volunteerism and direct volunteer activities in a more productive and efficient manner.

We expect that the Museum will produce at least two major temporary exhibits--*Painting Ladies: Women Artists and the Montana Experience*, *Montana and The Spanish American War: A Centennial Observance*--and two traveling exhibits--*The Lure of the Parks* and *The 25th Anniversary of the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention*--before the end of the next biennium. Additional changes to our three permanent exhibits are also scheduled, including a *"Montana Symbols"* introduction and new title panels for *Montana Homeland*. Additionally, many small exhibits will be mounted that feature distinct parts of the Society's collections--such as Montana Monthly: The Art of Calendars, other thematic groupings of artifacts, or new acquisitions--in the Reflections Gallery, in the lobby and in other parts of the building. *The Gallery of Outstanding Montanans* in the Capitol will also be updated and amended regularly. Talks with the Province of Alberta concerning a cooperative exhibit are continuing to take place--an expanded outline has been formulated. Funding is being pursued for the major exhibit opening in spring of 1999. We also will be engaged in future exhibit planning--the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial will be among the exhibit themes we will be exploring.

Visitor survey projects will continue. Results from completed Museum Visitor and Montana Public Awareness surveys have been extremely helpful in planning future programming and services. We hope to follow up with a membership survey to broaden the participation we receive from the public.

As always the Museum Program will strive for educational excellence in presentation of all of our exhibits, programs, research, and publications.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Montana Historical Society Publications Program consists of three departments: its nationally recognized, award-winning quarterly history journal, Montana The Magazine of Western History; its book publishing division, the Montana Historical Society Press, the state's only academic book publisher; and the Montana Historical Society Museum Store. The program also is responsible for publication of the Society's quarterly newsletter, the Montana Post, and facilitating production of occasional publications such as the Society's annual history conference program, the annual museum store catalog, reports, pamphlets and catalogs to accompany museum exhibits, and a variety of promotional items such as advertising, brochures, flyers, and special mailings.

MAGAZINE

Publication of the Society's quarterly history magazine is one way in which the Society fulfills its statutory mission of preserving Montana history and providing educational outreach. Established in 1951, Montana The Magazine of Western History enjoyed virtually instant success. Initially published in the traditional 6"x9" format of other state historical journals, Montana was enlarged within two years to its present over-sized format to accommodate more historical articles, illustrations, and full-color western art on the cover. Since then, the formula for the journal's continued success has been maintained: well-researched, well-written articles that make significant contributions to Montana and western history; generous illustration with historical photographs, maps, charts, and other illustration; tasteful, engaging western art reproduced in high quality full color on the magazine's cover.

This formula has worked well for the magazine. Montana is regarded as the finest historical journal of its kind in the nation and is a pace-setter in format, design, content, illustration, and general presentation of historical information. The magazine's circulation of more than 11,000 includes 7,500 lay readers, some 2,000 quarterly newsstand sales, and, by contract, the more than 1,500 regular

members of the Western History Association (WHA). During the past two years, the Montana Historical Society entered into its tenth year of this contractual relation-ship with the WHA, an organization whose membership represents more than 90 percent of all western history professionals (including academic historians, National Park Service and other public historians, state and local historians, and western writers). Montana circulates in all fifty states and fifteen foreign countries, as well as to 150 public libraries, county historical societies, and local history museums in Montana and to another 150 public and university libraries outside the state. Thus, Montana is a service to thousands of Montana residents and serves as a vehicle by which the state and its rich cultural heritage are promoted throughout the nation and all over the world.

During the past two years, the Publications Program has attempted to further upgrade, streamline, and expand its operations in an ongoing effort to improve overall quality, cost-effectiveness, and outreach.

Increased circulation. This is being accomplished through direct mail solicitation of new subscribers and distribution for newsstand sales through a number of national distributors.

More than 200,000 pieces of direct mail promotional material have invited recipients to subscribe to the magazine and become members of the Montana Historical Society in the last two years. Lists of names have been obtained from other western state historical societies, western university presses, western trail organizations and other western history buff groups, as well as the alumni associations of the state's two major universities. Returns have recovered costs and maintained or increased magazine circulation. Renewals in the second year from new subscribers have averaged more than 50 percent.

In addition, through special contracts with distribution agencies based in Helena and elsewhere, Montana is available on newsstands, in book stores such as Hastings and Waldens, museums, local historical societies, western historical sites, airports, and grocery stores nationwide.

Upgraded design. After simplifying the magazine's design four years ago, we have continued to effect a cleaner, more attractive appearance and improved design to create a magazine that is easier than ever to read and to use as a historical record. Having doubled use of historical photographs, illustrations, maps, and other such material in previous years, we have continued this expansion and have further enhanced our ability to create historical maps and charts in-house. Last year, we changed the magazine's typeface, from Century Old Style to Monotype Bulmer, and either instituted new or refined existing graphic design elements to improve appearance and function.

Improved content. During the past several years we have recruited some of the best historians and writers working in western history, including Stephen Ambrose, Robert M. Utley, Ivan Doig, Bill

Kittredge, Paul Andrew Hutton, James P. Ronda, James Welch, Elmer Kelton, and John Taliaferro. The magazine has provided offerings on a diversity of topics, including women's history, exploration and settlement, Native American history and literature, biography, popular culture, the fur trade, and western film. Specific articles have focused on Montana artists and writers Norman Maclean, Charles M. Russell, and D'Arcy McNickle as well as on Frederic Remington, Wallace Stegner, the Pony Express, famous horses in film and television, Calamity Jane, Wyatt Earp, and filmmaker John Ford.

Broadened advertising. Postal regulations require that the magazine devote no more than 10 percent of its space to advertising. In-house policy requires that the magazine carry only high-quality advertising directly related to western history. (Almost all magazine advertising promotes new or rare and out-of-print books on western history and literature.) To maximize a limited opportunity, we have made contractual arrangements with seven university presses and with an assortment of antiquarian dealers. The effect has been to regularize billing, income and cash-flow, and planning for the magazine's advertising space needs.

Upgraded equipment and personnel. Three years ago, the Publications Program purchased $17,000 worth of equipment and hired a half-time assistant editor with a background in creative design and computer expertise to do, for the first time in-house, all magazine and book typesetting, computer imaging layout, and production of printer-ready material for the Montana Post and other, more occasional publications such as brochures, history conference programs, flyers, promotional material, and magazine inserts.

The decision to operate these functions in-house has proven highly efficient and cost-effective. The position and the equipment have easily paid for themselves, even with the continued necessary upgrading of equipment and reclassification of the position into a full-time graphic designer. The effect has been to enable the Society's publications program to keep pace with rapidly changing technologies and other innovations in the printing and production industry, to broaden the publication program's ability to assist with other Society activities, and to assume added responsibilities related to the MHS Press.

Cooperative projects. The MHS Publications Program continues to be closely linked with other historical and cultural agencies and institutions both in Montana and outside the state. Two years ago, the Society sponsored a major conference, titled the Little Bighorn Legacy Symposium. The conference was presented in cooperation with the National Park Service, the Wyoming Council for the Humanities, the Montana Committee for the Humanities, and a number of other educational institutions. This year, the MHS Press will publish a "proceedings"--including all presentations delivered during the symposium--in book form.

In addition, the Publications Program will inaugurate a new internship program at the Society made possible by a $10,000 grant

from Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society in history. The program will enable undergraduate and graduate students from Montana institutions of higher learning to obtain course credit while working at the Society in any one of several capacities, including library/archives, museum, publications, and state historic preservation.

Plans for Montana The Magazine of Western History for the next two years include:

Continued direct mail promotion to maintain and increase magazine circulation and with it financial stability.

Continued efforts to enhance magazine visibility through other forms of advertising and program participation in historical conferences, symposia, and related programs.

Increased cooperative efforts with other state institutions involved with Montana and western history. These include cooperative symposia with the state's institutions of higher education, the results of which are often published in the magazine and contribute to anthologies published by the MHS Press, and encouraging oral history and other historical projects that produce timely and significant interviews and essays suitable for publication.

Maintaining the high quality of the magazine's appearance and content that Montana readers have come to expect. Such quality helps project a favorable, inviting, and respected image for the state and its history.

MHS PRESS

In the past two years the Press has continued its expansion. A full-time editor was hired in 1995 and the number of books the Press publishes has continued to increase. The Press published six titles in 1995 and 1996, and plans to publish approximately eighteen titles in 1997 and 1998. Books published over the last biennium have been remarkably well-received by both western history scholars and lay readers, with positive reviews coming from media as diverse and far flung as WBAI radio in New York City; The Chicago Tribune; Western Historical Quarterly, the journal of the Western History Association; and Wild West, a popular, and widely distributed monthly magazine. Responses have been equally enthusiastic inside Montana, with Montana Historical Society Press books inevitably garnering favorable reviews in weekly and daily papers across the state.

Titles published in the last two years include Legacy: New Perspectives on the Battle of the Little Bighorn, edited by Charles E. Rankin; Traveler's Guide to the Great Sioux War: The Battlefields, Forts, and Related Sites of America's Greatest Indian War, by Paul L. Hedren; Perilous Passage: A Narrative of the

Montana Gold Rush, 1862-1863, by Edwin R. Purple, edited by Kenneth N. Owens; and new editions of the following titles: Helena: An Illustrated History, by Vivian Paladin and Jean Baucus; Battle for Butte: Mining and Politics on the Northern Frontier, 1864-1906, by Michael P. Malone; and Calamity Jane, by Roberta Beed Sollid. A measure of the Society's publishing program's success is that both Perilous Passage and Calamity Jane have already gone into a second printing.

Spring of 1997 will see the publication of Autobiography of Red Cloud: War Leader of the Oglalas, edited by R. Eli Paul; a paperback edition of When You and I Were Young, Whitefish, by Dorothy Marie Johnson; and publication of the Charlie Russell Journal, a sketchbook/writer's journal, illustrated with quotations and pen-and-ink drawings by Charlie Russell.

The Press's autumn 1997 list includes a history of the MacDonald family, for whom MacDonald Pass is named, and two anthologies, one on Lewis and Clark, edited by James Ronda, author of Lewis and Clark Among the Indians; and the other on Charlie Russell, edited by Brian Dippie, author of Charles M. Russell, Word Painter. In addition, in cooperation with the Archives, we will be publishing a guide to the Society's oral history collection.

Publications scheduled for 1998 include guidebooks to several towns--Anaconda, Glendive, Lewistown, Virginia City, and possibly Fort Benton and Kalispell--as part of a new Montana Mainstreets series. This ongoing series, to be published in cooperation with organizations in the featured communities, is designed to promote cultural tourism and historic preservation efforts by making broadly accessible information collected by the State Historic Preservation Office on historic structures and districts across Montana. A guidebook to historic districts across the entire state is also in the works and is scheduled for publication in spring 1998. Also scheduled for publication in 1998 is Susan Badger Doyle's two volume collection of Bozeman Trail diaries and reminiscences, Journeys to the Land of Gold.

As the number of titles in print expands, so too does the Press's activities in marketing, distribution, and publicity. A distribution agreement with Falcon Press of Helena has greatly increased the actual number of Press books sold and the number of stores--including chains such as Barnes and Noble, Hastings, and Walmart--carrying Press titles. The Society's public relations officer has managed to dramatically increase the press coverage of Society books both within Montana and throughout the United States. Especially exciting has been the initiation, with the help of the Society's education department, of author talks and book signings by Press authors. Vivian Paladin and Jean Baucus, authors of Helena: An Illustrated History, have spoken to several groups in Helena. Paul Hedren, author of Traveler's Guide to the Great Sioux War, spoke and signed books at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and, as the first speaker in the Montana Historical Society education department's "LIVE! from the Society" series, he addressed

audiences in the communities of Glendive, Miles City, Hardin, and Billings. A similar tour is planned in spring 1997 for R. Eli Paul, editor of Autobiography of Red Cloud, and plans are underway for a Bozeman Trail Symposium in 1998 to coincide with publication of Journeys to the Land of Gold by Susan Badger Doyle.

MUSEUM STORE

The Publications Program is responsible for managing the Society's museum gift shop. The Museum Store continues to operate in a fashion responsive to public demand primarily through direct mail to a broad base of people interested in Montana and western history and in a way that makes itself compatible with Helena area businesses. Store proceeds support the MHS Press. In addition to offering merchandise appropriate and suitable to a state historical society, especially books, magazines, and prints related to Montana history and literature, the store serves as a clearinghouse for a number of questions and requests for information and assistance, which are answered free of charge or directed to appropriate programs within the Society or to other state offices or private institutions.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The mission of the Historic Preservation Office is to provide assistance to people in the state--individuals, organizations, units of government and government agencies--to preserve significant historic and prehistoric buildings and sites in their ownership or care. Office staff provide advice, technical assistance, economic support and legal consultations when required by statute.

Funding for the program is based on Department of the Interior allocations through an agreement with the state. As required by the terms of the federal program, office staff is comprised of historians, architectural historians, archaeologists, an architect, and local government/grant administrators. The federal share of office operations constitutes about 90% of costs with a required additional 30% being "matched" by other public and private preservation expenditures in the state.

Specific office services include:

Helping Montanans research and list worthy properties in the National Register of Historic Places;

Regranting federal funds to help communities conduct or conducting ourselves systematic research on groups of properties that might qualify for the Register;

Giving technical assistance to Montana developers, architects, and building owners needed to secure federal tax credits available for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings;

Certifying Montana local governments to work with the office in setting up local preservation commissions;

Consulting with federal and state agencies, as required by federal and state preservation legislation, so that projects undertaken by those agencies might occur with limited impact to significant cultural resources;

Providing technical assistance on a wide range of preservation topics: building care; historic property research; archaeological site protection; preservation laws and regulations;

Maintaining data on all cultural sites and buildings in Montana and on all previous inventories conducted to find and evaluate historic and prehistoric sites;

Sponsoring educational and interpretive efforts to demonstrate the economic and social values of historic sites; and

Assisting other organizations, groups, and individuals working with historic and archaeological site protection (Native American culture committees, statewide organizations, local organizations, etc.).

PRESERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public Education

In cooperation with the local preservation commissions in Bozeman, Helena, Butte and Missoula, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Montana Preservation Alliance the office helped create the Montana Community Historic Preservation Team, a traveling group of top professionals in the field available for workshops state-wide.

Preservation PLACES Survey

For three successive years, the Offices's PLACES (People, Lands, and Cultural Environments) program has applied successfully to the Turner Foundation for funding to conduct multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural inventory of prehistoric resources on the Flying D Ranch in Gallatin and Madison counties. We have prepared and submitted a fourth grant application for the final stage of this survey program. The PLACES program examines human activity and resources as inextricably influenced by and influencing of "natural" resources.

Certified Local Governments

Montana now has 13 "certified" local governments with preservation boards and ordinances (Missoula, Helena/Lewis and Clark County, Great Falls/Cascade County, Lewistown, Butte/Silver-Bow County, Bozeman, Carbon County, Virginia City, and Miles City, Billings, Anaconda and Yellowstone County). Certified status entitles communities to apply for a set-aside portion of our federal preservation grant dollars and enables the community to take greater charge of preservation issues/projects in their communities.

Tax Credits

Montana's booming economy has only increased an already steady use of federal preservation tax credits to rehabilitate income-producing properties on the National Register of Historic Places. Projects ranging from the Pollard Hotel in Red Lodge, to the Fort Peck Hotel in Fort Peck, to two different projects in the Great Falls Railroad Historic district, along with many others, have invested $7,000,000 in Montana's economy over the biennium.

Anaconda and Other Community Surveys

Anaconda applied to be a community architectural and historical inventory project and their project was completed this year. Their interest was sparked by Anaconda/Butte historic park proposals and Southwestern Montana Heritage and Recreation development recommendations--and by mitigation funds for Superfund work. The resulting nomination to the National Register of the historic commercial and residential sections of the city was sent in this year. A survey of an area of Helena was completed and proposed for nomination.

Federal and State Agency Reviews

Federal and state law requires our review and comment on all projects that could affect properties on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This regular workload is intense. The political pressure for commenting quickly and in "favorable" ways increases. Some federal programs (such as HOME and ISTEA/CTEP) have grown quickly and have generated heavy new workloads. Other federal programs have maintained their level of activity but lost historians and archaeologists to help. We continue to alter our procedures and to develop legal mechanisms to offer resources good protection while eliminating as many commenting steps as feasible. In particular, standard procedures are being developed to address common situations. The office is committed to consistent and responsive management practices in conducting these consultations.

National Register Program

The number of organizations or individuals wishing to list properties in the National Register of Historic Places continues to

increase. As Montana recognizes heritage preservation and tourism as critical sources of social and economic benefit there is more demand for historic properties to be recognized.

State Historic Preservation Plan

As the above examples illustrate, increasingly we team up with others to accomplish projects, educate on issues, and tackle new needs. As required by the National Park Service, the office has compiled a state historic preservation plan this year. Surveys and situations make it clear that the program must link up with the wide range of organizations, groups, agencies, communities and individuals interested in historic preservation to accomplish well managed heritage protection. Our partners range from tribal cultural committees to federal and state agencies to private consulting firms and businesses. The plan, titled "Working Together" provides an overview of preservation issues and how people in the state can archive their preservation objectives through cooperation and sharing information and expertise.

FUTURE WORK

In the next biennium, we anticipate:

Continuing to conduct the fundamental education, technical assistance, and commenting required of the office with an emphasis on supporting economic development through historic preservation.

Developing the state plan through partnerships to accomplish needed preservation work. It is imperative that our partnerships include communities, state and federal agencies and Native Americans as fully as possible.

To encourage a multi-agency "hands-on" building rehabilitation craftsman program that can serve communities and agencies throughout the state.

Assigning work, time, and goals to fit ever shifting federal preservation requirements, regulations, and dollars. As the federal government continues to pass more authority on to us, we must make specific choices about how much we accept--based on Montana's needs and preferences.

Expand our PLACES survey project to respond to the public's interest in archaeological information and to encourage the protection of archaeological sites.